

WALKER COUNTY

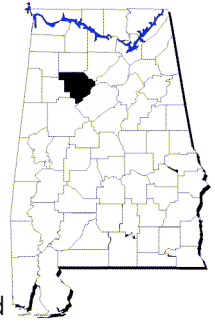
Honorable James C. Brotherton

Walker County Courthouse
P.O. Box 1603
Jasper, AL 35501
(205) 384-7234

Randy Redmill
Jerry Lovett
Kennedy Perdue
Sonny Posey
Monica Gardner
Bobby Cain
Robbie Barton
Phillip Woods
Harvey Sanford
Wanda J. Spears
R. David Blackerby
Jeannie Earnest
Charles Baker
Curt Lee
Bruce Hamrick
John Mark Tirey
Phyllis cook
Nora Lane
Brenda Doss

Jan Hulsey
Susan Cheatwood
Gayle Crump
Pollyanna Higgs
Danny Patton
Donna Lawson
Connie Rowe
Mickey Beaty
Jane Aswell
Paula Sanders
Thomas Sherer
Vivian Winters
Barbara Williams
April Knight
Kay Best
Betsy Lavanna
Kim Hobson
Saderia Morman
Deb Ellis

Kay Wilson
Teresa Benefield
Brian Smelley
Alissa Bittner
Gina Nichols
Kim Pike
Robert Mount
Joeletta Martin
Billy J. Bunn
Carol Savage
Rosemary Hataway
Nan Bishop
Kathy Ferguson
Donna Bailey
Carol Compton
Archie L. Nailor, Sr.
Donna Kilgore
Johnny Sudberry



Executive Director: Donna Kilgore

Council Priorities

1. Parent education

Identify/refer parents to available parenting/resources/classes available in a variety of settings.

2. Reduce illegal substance distribution in communities.

Increase collaboration with agencies, individuals and communities to support/seek funding/resources to reduce substance abuse.

3. Need for parents to receive awareness information regarding the importance of parent participation in the following areas: school participation, programs, family budgeting, and prevention awareness.

Increase promotion of existing parent resources.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Parent education

Action Steps

- 1) Identify/refer parents to available parenting resources/classes available in a variety of settings.

Need for increased availability/access to early learning centers/programs. Need for parent discussion groups and increase training in violence prevention

Action Steps

- 1) Support and promote prevention/intervention programs/resources in school and community settings.

Need for affordable daycare/transportation

Action Steps

- 1) Work with organizations in providing information about available day-care facilities and transportation.

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Increase and support economic development, job availability, public awareness of opportunities/financial assistance

Action Steps

- 1) Council will support economic development through aiding in public awareness of job opportunities and access.

Increase availability of life skills training for parents

Action Steps

- 1) Council will advocate for increased training with local resources.

Need for affordable after-hours day-care

Action Steps

- 1) Council will advocate for affordable/available day-care for children.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Decrease the number of high school drop outs in Walker County

Action Steps

1) Utilizing collaborating council partners, news media, pamphlets, parent days and public announcements to increase collaboration/support to encourage youth to complete their education.

Increase parental involvement in education

Action Steps

1) Collaborating agencies will provide available information regarding services/resources to youth and adults.

Community educational services/resources available for youth and adults

Action Steps

1) Community educational services/resources available for youth and adults.

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Decrease the use/abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs by youth 0-19

Action Steps

1) Promote and encourage programs that address prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

Continue to decrease the number of children in Walker County without health insurance

Action Steps

1) Continue to support enrollment activities and events such as health fairs to provide information regarding insurance/preventive health resources.

Increase support of mental health resources for children in Walker County

Action Steps

1) Support awareness campaigns to educate the community regarding resources and needs for children's mental health services.

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Need for parents to receive awareness information regarding the importance of their involvement in the following areas: school participation, programs, family budgeting, and prevention awareness

Action Steps

- 1) Increase promotion of existing parenting classes/resources.

Need to encourage/support role models for good citizenship/volunteering

Action Steps

- 1) Community initiative to encourage and promote parent/child involvement promoting good citizenship and community involvement.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Reduce illegal substance distribution in communities

Action Steps

- 1) Increase collaboration with local law enforcement, seeking funding to increase number of resource officers and community resources.

Increase public awareness with children and adults regarding violence prevention including physical and emotional abuse

Action Steps

- 1) Promote/support awareness programs with the community.
- 2) Collaborating partners providing literature/resources on violence prevention.

Need of supervision with children in regard to internet access and exposure to explicit music and media

Action Steps

- 1) Prepare written materials educating parents on supervising children regarding internet/media access to be distributed via local agencies and offices.

Policy Recommendations

- Reduce/eliminate unnecessary paperwork, increasing flexibility in providing services to children in need.
- Defined rules/laws regarding the intervention for infants testing positive at birth for drugs.
- Raising age of license driver/learners permit must be obtained for one year prior to license.
- Increase funding/support for child services including childcare, pre-school programs, foster homes and preventive health services.
- Increase funding/support for after school, counseling and prevention programs.